United Nations A/72/729

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 February 2018

Original: English

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 72
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 24 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on declaring the year 2018 in the Republic of Uzbekistan as the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72.

(*Signed*) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**
Permanent Representative

18-01758 (E) 120218 130218

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

In Uzbekistan the year 2018 has been declared the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies

At the suggestion of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in Uzbekistan the year 2018 has been declared the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies.

A presidential decree approved the State programme on the implementation of the Strategy of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan in five priority development areas for the period 2017–2021 during the Year of Support for Active Entrepreneurship, Innovative Ideas and Technologies.

The State programme consists of five sections covering the following areas:

- Development of the State and society: enhancement of the profile and efficiency of the civil service; review of the tasks and structures of the executive authorities, increase in the autonomy of the heads of ministries, departments and local authorities; transfer of certain powers from central to local authorities; significant improvement in the accessibility, quality and efficiency of public services; and full support for civil society institutions and the media;

- Ensuring the supremacy of the rule of law and further reform of the judicial system: further strengthening of constitutional guarantees of the privacy of citizens, including transfer to the courts of the right to authorize searches and the interception of telephone conversations; establishment of a commission attached to the *Oliy Majlis* to protect the independence of the judiciary; radical reform of the national security agencies; equipping of temporary holding facilities, remand centres and penal institutions with video surveillance systems; provision of portable video cameras for members of the road patrol and checkpoint patrol service; and optimization of the number of patrol checkpoints;

- Development of the economy and support for active entrepreneurship: creation of legal and organizational conditions conducive to the development of active entrepreneurship and the adoption of innovative ideas and technologies; further improvement of legal safeguards and mechanisms to prevent unlawful interference in entrepreneurial activities, fiscal and customs policies, and the banking and financial sectors; the development of a strategy to reform the agricultural sector; the allocation of benefits to industries and economic sectors, rather than to individuals; and active regional development;

- Improvement of social services: implementation of a set of measures to further strengthen social protection and health care; establishment of an extensive network of social pharmacies; a boost in employment and the real incomes of citizens; definition of a basket of consumer goods; an increase in social housing; and full targeted support for socially vulnerable segments of the population, including persons with disabilities;

- Ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuit of foreign policy: adoption of a new national security framework for the Republic of Uzbekistan; implementation of a set of measures to strengthen and develop further military and military-technical cooperation with foreign partners, improve the State border protection and security system, counter terrorism,

extremism and information threats, and strengthen inter-ethnic and interfaith harmony and religious tolerance; radical reform of the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions; enhancement of the system for protecting the rights and interests of citizens abroad; and the continuation of a mutually beneficial foreign policy and development of trade and economic, and also cultural and humanitarian relations.

The State programme provides for the drafting of 37 laws (the electoral code and laws on the civil service, the protection of personal data, the rights of persons with disabilities, science and innovation, among others), the adoption of 142 legal and regulatory acts and action on 52 practical measures in various areas.

The adoption of a civil service act will be a key step. This act will contribute to creating a decent wage and social protection system for public servants and will enhance their accountability for their work.

There will be a true decentralization of State functions and powers. First, some government functions, particularly in the area of licensing and authorization procedures, will be transferred to the ministries and agencies, and to local public authorities. Secondly, the powers of *khokims* at all levels will be expanded, with a strengthening of their roles as the individuals responsible for implementing State policy and protecting the rights and interests of citizens in their regions.

The ultimate objective of these reforms is to improve the actual powers of local authorities in order to accelerate socioeconomic development and foster the well-being of the population.

A system for collective email petitions will be introduced as a new mechanism to protect the rights of citizens to participate in the governance of the State. It will allow citizens to pose specific questions to representative government bodies, which will be obliged to respond to requests endorsed by a certain number of citizens.

Active citizens and public organizations can use this mechanism to suggest solutions to various problems. This is consistent with the principle that decisions of crucial importance for the life of the country should be taken on the basis of direct dialogue.

The next priority of the State programme is to ensure supremacy of the rule of law and further reform of the judicial and legal system.

A policy for the development of criminal law and the law of criminal procedure over the period 2018–2021 is to be drafted, and the statute of limitations for instituting criminal proceedings against a person is to be reviewed. There are also plans to liberalize criminal and administrative liability and to improve procedural norms.

The third priority of the State programme is development of the economy and support for active entrepreneurship.

In the area of development and liberalization of the economy, there is to be a phased transition to a new model of innovative development based on cutting-edge ideas, smart technology and know-how.

A legal framework will be developed for the creation and development of venture funds, venture capital and mechanisms to encourage the adoption of innovations and modern technology in the economy.

For the period until 1 January 2023, venture funds, high-tech start-ups, research institutions, innovation centres and engineering design bureaux have been granted tax relief on income derived from the sale (or transfer for use) of their new technologies to entrepreneurs.

Land plots will be allocated through e-tendering to ensure transparency and legality. A system for the sale of State assets through electronic trading platforms is to be established.

There will be a major review of legislation on banks and banking activities, with the introduction of digital banking, Internet banking and other modern technologies in that sector.

Efforts to improve and optimize fiscal and customs policies, reduce the tax burden and simplify the tax and customs administration will continue.

Particular attention will be given to the development of tourism, promoting inbound and domestic tourism, and simplifying administrative and visa procedures for tourists.

The next section of the State programme is the development of social services.

Issues relating to the basket of consumer goods are to be subject to legal regulation, in order to determine the level of income required for a decent standard of living. There will be a phased transition to a system of determining wages, pensions and other Social payments based on the basket of consumer goods by region.

Efforts to improve the health-care system and improve the quality of health services will continue. A system of smart medicine and innovative technologies for health care will be introduced.

The State programme provides for the establishment and opening of 2,000 social pharmacies, which will deliver high-quality medicines at affordable prices.

The construction of affordable housing will be increased by a factor of 1.5–2 in 2018, to provide for the growing needs of the population, especially of young families. A total of 5.286 trillion Uzbek sum have been allocated for this purpose.

To ensure full coverage of telecommunications services, there are plans to install 2,000 kilometres of optical fibre networks in remote areas, increase Internet speed by a factor of 2.5 and commission over 4,000 mobile communication base stations.

The fifth priority of the State programme is ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance and pursuing a prudent, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy.

A framework for State policy on cooperation with fellow citizens living and working abroad will be drafted and adopted.

The religious education system will be reviewed to make it more effective and ensure a greater impact, particularly among young people.

A total of 13.5 trillion Uzbek sum and US$ 1.3 billion will be allocated to implement the measures set out in the State programme.

Implementation of the activities set out in the State programme will be a powerful impetus for the further economic development of Uzbekistan and will bring about a real improvement in the well-being and quality of life of citizens.